Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

September 27, 2011

1341

Honorable Julius Genachowski Chairman Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

We commend the FCC on its efforts to ensure that all Americans have access to broadband services. Broadband has become essential to Americans' economic opportunities and civic life, and it is critical that the FCC take steps to bridge the digital gap between those Americans who are reaping the benefits of broadband and those who have yet to do so. An important element of bridging this "digital divide" is ensuring that sufficient Universal Service Fund (USF) support is available for broadband adoption programs.

Consumers today contribute \$4.5 billion annually toward the USF support for incumbent telephone companies in high-cost areas. As the National Broadband Plan noted, unrestrained growth in the fund not only imposes a greater cost burden on consumers, who pay into the fund via a contribution factor that continues to reach higher and higher levels, but it could also jeopardize public support for the goals of universal service. The collection of up to \$4.5 billion per year, appropriately targeted to high-cost areas, should provide sufficient funding to support broadband deployment. Within that context, we believe it is clear that uncontrolled growth of the fund is unsustainable. Further, as the reform process moves forward, we encourage the Commission to maintain its firm commitment in the National Broadband Plan to impose responsible and enforceable budget discipline.

Taking such steps will not only promote the best use of consumer dollars for deployment, it is also critically important for ensuring sufficient funding for broadband adoption programs. While terrestrial broadband service today is available to 95 percent of U.S. households, only an estimated 67 percent of such households actually subscribe. In today's economy, the internet has become a necessity, not a luxury. We must do more to promote subscribership through adoption programs. The lack of subscribership is often not due to a lack of interest in broadband, but rather because the households may not have the necessary equipment, training or educational opportunities to take advantage of the benefits of Internet use. Other households simply cannot afford even basic broadband service. In fact, according to the recent FCC survey, more than 28 million Americans do not subscribe to broadband service because of barriers to broadband adoption. A truly complete USF program would include adequate funding to bring

critical programs, like broadband adoption initiatives modeled after the Lifeline and Link Up, into the broadband era.

As the FCC considers how to reform the USF program, we urge you to remain mindful of the need for funding adoption programs as well as deployment. With appropriate fiscal responsibility, there is sufficient funding for both — without unduly burdening consumers with additional USF fees. Thank you for your attention to these important issues. Please make this letter available on the record in the appropriate FCC docket.

Sincerely,

DORIS O. MATSUI Member of Congress NENRY WAXMAN Member of Congress

ANNA G. ESHOO Member of Congress

EDWARD J. MARKEY Member of Congress

MICHAEL F. DOYLI Member of Congress DIANA DeGETTE Member of Congress

LOIS CAPPS

Member of Congress

JAN SCHAKOWSKY

Member of Congress

OE LOFGREN

Member of Congress

KATHY CASTOR

Member of Congress

MIKE THOMPSON

Member of Congress

OSEPH CROWLEY
Member of Congress

DONNA CHRISTENSEN Member of Congress Member of Congress Member of Congress WILLIAM L. OWENS Member of Congress Member of Congress Member of Congress ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ JAMES A. HIMES JOE COURTNEY Member of Congress Member of Congress Member of Congress RAUL M. GRIJALVA **BOB FILNER BRAD SHERMAN** Member of Congress Member of Congress Member of Congress

BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress

TIMOUHY BISHOP
Member of Congress

LINDA T. SANCHEZ
Member of Congress

LAURA RICHARDSON Member of Congress

Member of Congress

MOWARD L. BERMAN Member of Congress MICHAEL M. HONDA Member of Congress

DENNIS A. CARDOZA Member of Congress

JOE BACA

Member of Congress

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 17, 2011

The Honorable Joe Baca
U.S. House of Representatives
2366 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Baca:

Thank you very much for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to reform and modernize the Universal Service Fund (USF) and the intercarrier compensation system (ICC). Your thoughts and concerns were a valuable contribution to our process, and were considered as part of the Commission's deliberations.

On October 27, after many years of hard work on Capitol Hill, among the FCC's Commissioners, and by Commission staff, the Commission unanimously adopted a comprehensive Order overhauling the broken and backward-looking USF and ICC systems for the Internet age. By transitioning these programs to the Connect America Fund, we are delivering on our shared national goal of universal voice and broadband service – including universal mobile voice and broadband service – and enabling increased private sector investment in the indispensable infrastructure of the 21st century: broadband. Importantly, our reforms are fiscally responsible, eliminating waste and inefficiency, using market-based mechanisms to target support where it is needed, and putting the Fund on a firm budget.

The Commission's Order will create jobs beginning in 2012, and lay the foundation for enduring job creation, economic growth, and U.S. global competitiveness for years to come.

For your information, I am enclosing a copy of the Order's "Executive Summary." Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Julius Genachowski



November 17, 2011

The Honorable Howard L. Berman
U.S. House of Representatives
2221 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Berman:

Thank you very much for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to reform and modernize the Universal Service Fund (USF) and the intercarrier compensation system (ICC). Your thoughts and concerns were a valuable contribution to our process, and were considered as part of the Commission's deliberations.

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Sincerely,

Julius Genachowski

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 17, 2011

The Honorable Timothy H. Bishop U.S. House of Representatives 306 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Bishop:

Thank you very much for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to reform and modernize the Universal Service Fund (USF) and the intercarrier compensation system (ICC). Your thoughts and concerns were a valuable contribution to our process, and were considered as part of the Commission's deliberations.

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Sincerely,

Julius Genachowski

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 17, 2011

The Honorable Lois Capps
U.S. House of Representatives
2231 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Capps:

Thank you very much for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to reform and modernize the Universal Service Fund (USF) and the intercarrier compensation system (ICC). Your thoughts and concerns were a valuable contribution to our process, and were considered as part of the Commission's deliberations.

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Sincerely,

Julius Genachowski

Julius Genachowski

CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 17, 2011

The Honorable Dennis Cardoza U.S. House of Representatives 2437 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cardoza:

Thank you very much for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to reform and modernize the Universal Service Fund (USF) and the intercarrier compensation system (ICC). Your thoughts and concerns were a valuable contribution to our process, and were considered as part of the Commission's deliberations.

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Julius Genachowski

CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 17, 2011

The Honorable Kathy Castor U.S. House of Representatives 137 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Castor:

Thank you very much for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to reform and modernize the Universal Service Fund (USF) and the intercarrier compensation system (ICC). Your thoughts and concerns were a valuable contribution to our process, and were considered as part of the Commission's deliberations.

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Sincerely,

Julius Genachowski

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI CHAIRMAN

November 17, 2011

The Honorable Donna M. Christensen U.S. House of Representatives 1510 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Christensen:

Thank you very much for your letters regarding the Commission's efforts to reform and modernize the Universal Service Fund (USF) and the intercarrier compensation system (ICC). Your thoughts and concerns were a valuable contribution to our process, and were considered as part of the Commission's deliberations.

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Sincerely,

Julius Genachowski

CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 17, 2011

The Honorable Joe Courtney
U.S. House of Representatives
215 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Courtney:

Thank you very much for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to reform and modernize the Universal Service Fund (USF) and the intercarrier compensation system (ICC). Your thoughts and concerns were a valuable contribution to our process, and were considered as part of the Commission's deliberations.

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Julius Genachowski

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 17, 2011

The Honorable Joseph Crowley U.S. House of Representatives 2404 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Crowley:

Thank you very much for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to reform and modernize the Universal Service Fund (USF) and the intercarrier compensation system (ICC). Your thoughts and concerns were a valuable contribution to our process, and were considered as part of the Commission's deliberations.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 17, 2011

The Honorable Diana DeGette
U.S. House of Representatives
2335 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman DeGette:

Thank you very much for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to reform and modernize the Universal Service Fund (USF) and the intercarrier compensation system (ICC). Your thoughts and concerns were a valuable contribution to our process, and were considered as part of the Commission's deliberations.

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CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 17, 2011

The Honorable Mike Doyle
U.S. House of Representatives
401 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Doyle:

Thank you very much for your letters regarding the Commission's efforts to reform and modernize the Universal Service Fund (USF) and the intercarrier compensation system (ICC). Your thoughts and concerns were a valuable contribution to our process, and were considered as part of the Commission's deliberations.

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Sincerely,

Julius Genachowski



November 17, 2011

The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2322 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Eshoo:

Thank you very much for your letters regarding the Commission's efforts to reform and modernize the Universal Service Fund (USF) and the intercarrier compensation system (ICC). Your thoughts and concerns were a valuable contribution to our process, and were considered as part of the Commission's deliberations.

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Sincerely,

Julius Genachowski

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 17, 2011

The Honorable Eliot L. Engel U.S. House of Representatives 2161 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Engel:

Thank you very much for your letters regarding the Commission's efforts to reform and modernize the Universal Service Fund (USF) and the intercarrier compensation system (ICC). Your thoughts and concerns were a valuable contribution to our process, and were considered as part of the Commission's deliberations.

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Julius Genachowski

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 17, 2011

The Honorable Bob Filner
U.S. House of Representatives
2428 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Filner:

Thank you very much for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to reform and modernize the Universal Service Fund (USF) and the intercarrier compensation system (ICC). Your thoughts and concerns were a valuable contribution to our process, and were considered as part of the Commission's deliberations.

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Sincerely,

Julius Genachowski

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 17, 2011

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva U.S. House of Representatives 1511 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Grijalva:

Thank you very much for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to reform and modernize the Universal Service Fund (USF) and the intercarrier compensation system (ICC). Your thoughts and concerns were a valuable contribution to our process, and were considered as part of the Commission's deliberations.

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Julius Genachowski

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 17, 2011

The Honorable Jim Himes
U.S. House of Representatives
119 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Himes:

Thank you very much for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to reform and modernize the Universal Service Fund (USF) and the intercarrier compensation system (ICC). Your thoughts and concerns were a valuable contribution to our process, and were considered as part of the Commission's deliberations.

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Sincerely,

Julius Genachowski



November 17, 2011

The Honorable Mike Honda U.S. House of Representatives 1713 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Honda:

Thank you very much for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to reform and modernize the Universal Service Fund (USF) and the intercarrier compensation system (ICC). Your thoughts and concerns were a valuable contribution to our process, and were considered as part of the Commission's deliberations.

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Sincerely,

Julius Genachowski

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 17, 2011

The Honorable Barbara Lee
U.S. House of Representatives
2267 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Lee:

Thank you very much for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to reform and modernize the Universal Service Fund (USF) and the intercarrier compensation system (ICC). Your thoughts and concerns were a valuable contribution to our process, and were considered as part of the Commission's deliberations.

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Sincerely,

Julius Genachowski

CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 17, 2011

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren U.S. House of Representatives 1401 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Lofgren:

Thank you very much for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to reform and modernize the Universal Service Fund (USF) and the intercarrier compensation system (ICC). Your thoughts and concerns were a valuable contribution to our process, and were considered as part of the Commission's deliberations.

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Julius Genachowski

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 17, 2011

The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch
U.S. House of Representatives
2348 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Lynch:

Thank you very much for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to reform and modernize the Universal Service Fund (USF) and the intercarrier compensation system (ICC). Your thoughts and concerns were a valuable contribution to our process, and were considered as part of the Commission's deliberations.

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Julius Genachowski

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 17, 2011

The Honorable Edward J. Markey U.S. House of Representatives 2108 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Markey:

Thank you very much for your letters regarding the Commission's efforts to reform and modernize the Universal Service Fund (USF) and the intercarrier compensation system (ICC). Your thoughts and concerns were a valuable contribution to our process, and were considered as part of the Commission's deliberations.

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The Commission's Order will create jobs beginning in 2012, and lay the foundation for enduring job creation, economic growth, and U.S. global competitiveness for years to come.

For your information, I am enclosing a copy of the Order's "Executive Summary." Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Julius Genachowski

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 17, 2011

The Honorable Doris O. Matsui
U.S. House of Representatives
222 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Matsui:

Thank you very much for your letters regarding the Commission's efforts to reform and modernize the Universal Service Fund (USF) and the intercarrier compensation system (ICC). Your thoughts and concerns were a valuable contribution to our process, and were considered as part of the Commission's deliberations.

On October 27, after many years of hard work on Capitol Hill, among the FCC's Commissioners, and by Commission staff, the Commission unanimously adopted a comprehensive Order overhauling the broken and backward-looking USF and ICC systems for the Internet age. By transitioning these programs to the Connect America Fund, we are delivering on our shared national goal of universal voice and broadband service – including universal mobile voice and broadband service – and enabling increased private sector investment in the indispensable infrastructure of the 21st century: broadband. Importantly, our reforms are fiscally responsible, eliminating waste and inefficiency, using market-based mechanisms to target support where it is needed, and putting the Fund on a firm budget.

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Julius Genachowski

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 17, 2011

The Honorable James P. McGovern
U.S. House of Representatives
438 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman McGovern:

Thank you very much for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to reform and modernize the Universal Service Fund (USF) and the intercarrier compensation system (ICC). Your thoughts and concerns were a valuable contribution to our process, and were considered as part of the Commission's deliberations.

On October 27, after many years of hard work on Capitol Hill, among the FCC's Commissioners, and by Commission staff, the Commission unanimously adopted a comprehensive Order overhauling the broken and backward-looking USF and ICC systems for the Internet age. By transitioning these programs to the Connect America Fund, we are delivering on our shared national goal of universal voice and broadband service – including universal mobile voice and broadband service – and enabling increased private sector investment in the indispensable infrastructure of the 21st century: broadband. Importantly, our reforms are fiscally responsible, eliminating waste and inefficiency, using market-based mechanisms to target support where it is needed, and putting the Fund on a firm budget.

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Julius Genachowski

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 17, 2011

The Honorable Gerald "Jerry" M. McNerney U.S. House of Representatives 1210 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman McNerney:

Thank you very much for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to reform and modernize the Universal Service Fund (USF) and the intercarrier compensation system (ICC). Your thoughts and concerns were a valuable contribution to our process, and were considered as part of the Commission's deliberations.

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Julius Genachowski



November 17, 2011

The Honorable Bill Owens
U.S. House of Representatives
431 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Owens:

Thank you very much for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to reform and modernize the Universal Service Fund (USF) and the intercarrier compensation system (ICC). Your thoughts and concerns were a valuable contribution to our process, and were considered as part of the Commission's deliberations.

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Julius Genachowski

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 17, 2011

The Honorable Laura Richardson U.S. House of Representatives 1330 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Richardson:

Thank you very much for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to reform and modernize the Universal Service Fund (USF) and the intercarrier compensation system (ICC). Your thoughts and concerns were a valuable contribution to our process, and were considered as part of the Commission's deliberations.

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Sincerely,

Julius Genachowski



November 17, 2011

The Honorable Loretta Sanchez
U.S. House of Representatives
1114 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Sanchez:

Thank you very much for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to reform and modernize the Universal Service Fund (USF) and the intercarrier compensation system (ICC). Your thoughts and concerns were a valuable contribution to our process, and were considered as part of the Commission's deliberations.

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Sincerely,

Julius Genachowski



November 17, 2011

The Honorable Linda T. Sánchez U.S. House of Representatives 2423 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Sánchez:

Thank you very much for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to reform and modernize the Universal Service Fund (USF) and the intercarrier compensation system (ICC). Your thoughts and concerns were a valuable contribution to our process, and were considered as part of the Commission's deliberations.

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Julius Genachowski

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 17, 2011

The Honorable Janice D. Schakowsky U.S. House of Representatives 2367 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Schakowsky:

Thank you very much for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to reform and modernize the Universal Service Fund (USF) and the intercarrier compensation system (ICC). Your thoughts and concerns were a valuable contribution to our process, and were considered as part of the Commission's deliberations.

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Sincerely,

Julius Genachowski

November 17, 2011

The Honorable Adam Schiff U.S. House of Representatives 2411 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Schiff:

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI

CHAIRMAN

Thank you very much for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to reform and modernize the Universal Service Fund (USF) and the intercarrier compensation system (ICC). Your thoughts and concerns were a valuable contribution to our process, and were considered as part of the Commission's deliberations.

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Julius Genachowski

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 17, 2011

The Honorable Allyson Y. Schwartz U.S. House of Representatives 1227 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Schwartz:

Thank you very much for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to reform and modernize the Universal Service Fund (USF) and the intercarrier compensation system (ICC). Your thoughts and concerns were a valuable contribution to our process, and were considered as part of the Commission's deliberations.

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Sincerely,

Julius Genachowski



November 17, 2011

The Honorable Bradley J. Sherman U.S. House of Representatives 2242 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Sherman:

Thank you very much for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to reform and modernize the Universal Service Fund (USF) and the intercarrier compensation system (ICC). Your thoughts and concerns were a valuable contribution to our process, and were considered as part of the Commission's deliberations.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

November 17, 2011

The Honorable Mike Thompson
U.S. House of Representatives
231 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Thompson:

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November 17, 2011

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman Ranking Member Committee on Energy and Commerce U.S. House of Representatives 2322 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Waxman:

Thank you very much for your letter regarding the Commission's efforts to reform and modernize the Universal Service Fund (USF) and the intercarrier compensation system (ICC). Your thoughts and concerns were a valuable contribution to our process, and were considered as part of the Commission's deliberations.

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